

Michigan Association for
Purebred Dogs



Michigan Hunting Dog
Federation



Position Paper
SB 207 (As Passed by Senate)

This bill will replace the current minimum hunting age and require the NRCE to replace with a mentored youth hunting program. The Michigan Hunting Dog Federation and the Michigan Association for Pure Bred Dogs, clubs who breed and promote various dog breeds used for hunting activities, support the enactment of this bill.

The recreational pursuit and taking of game species is an important activity for many individuals, as well as supporting management of the state's game resources. Some of the advantages to the state include:

Maintaining an appropriate balance of the natural resource needs of game animals compared to the density of the human population and their needs can best be achieved through regulated hunting rules. For example, an overpopulation of deer present serious threats to health and safety as a result of deer - car accidents. The overpopulation of carnivores has an effect on farm animals and pets. The control of the raccoon population through hunting and trapping will help maintain a balance between a "pest" species and the human needs. The use of well regulated hunting activity is important in maintaining the balance between human and game animal populations.

The mentoring concept is especially valuable because it will promote family activities as well as producing a population of experienced citizens in the proper use of firearms, especially in times of severe inter-human strife.

The income to the state from the sale of licenses will allow the Department Natural Resources and Environment to meet their needs to maintain the state owned natural resources for other types of recreational enjoyment such as bird-watching, horseback riding and berry picking.

The advantages of SB 207 far outweigh the current hunting license procedure and we recommend that it be enacted into law.

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